

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the establishment of a mental health first aid training program; requiring the Department of Education to establish a mental health first aid training program; requiring the department to use a competitive procurement process to select a statewide association to develop, implement, and manage the program; providing course requirements; requiring instructors to be certified; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; providing for expiration of the program; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Mental health first aid training program.—

(1) The Department of Education shall establish a mental health first aid training program to help the public identify and understand the signs of mental illness and substance use disorders and provide the public with skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing a mental health or substance use problem.

(2) The department shall use a competitive procurement process to select a statewide association for mental health or

HB 811

2015

26 substance abuse awareness or treatment to develop, implement,  
27 and manage the program.

28 (3) The training program shall include, but is not limited  
29 to:

30 (a) An overview of mental illnesses and substance use  
31 disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

32 (b) Information on the potential risk factors and warning  
33 signs of mental illness or substance use disorders, including,  
34 but not limited to, depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating  
35 disorders, and self-injury, and common treatments for those  
36 conditions.

37 (c) An action plan that encompasses the skills, resources,  
38 and knowledge required to assess the situation, select and  
39 implement appropriate interventions, and help an individual with  
40 appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care.

41 (4) The contractor shall administer the program in a way  
42 that maximizes the availability of mental health first aid  
43 training throughout the state, which may include, but is not  
44 limited to, contracting with trained instructors or training  
45 additional instructors. However, the contractor shall ensure  
46 that all instructors in the training program have current  
47 certification by a national authority on mental health first aid  
48 programs.

49 (5) The contractor shall prioritize training for staff in  
50 educational institutions, including all components of the K-20  
51 education system as defined in s. 1000.04, Florida Statutes,

HB 811

2015

52 private schools as defined in s. 1002.42, Florida Statutes, and  
53 colleges and universities as defined in s. 1005.02, Florida  
54 Statutes. After training staff in educational institutions, the  
55 contractor shall prioritize training for first responders. The  
56 contractor may provide training to additional individuals.

57 (6) The department shall submit a report on the  
58 implementation and effectiveness of the mental health first aid  
59 training program provided pursuant to this act. The report shall  
60 describe the implementation of this program and include, but not  
61 be limited to, the number of individuals trained by geographic  
62 area, their employment or affiliation, the impact of the  
63 training, and recommendations regarding continued implementation  
64 of the program. The report shall be submitted to the Governor,  
65 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
66 Representatives by February 1, 2018.

67 (7) This section expires June 30, 2018.

68 Section 2. For fiscal year 2015-2016, the sum of \$300,000  
69 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the Federal Grants  
70 Trust Fund to the Department of Education to implement the  
71 provisions of this act.

72 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.